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Ret. to D/Pres.
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NSC BRIEFING

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

NEW SOVIET JET BOMBERS

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: REVIEWER:

I. Sightings during May Day rehearsals.

- A. 18 April - one observer saw nine planes - possibly heavy jet bombers (Type 37).
- B. Other observers on the 18th saw only one Type 37.
- C. In four subsequent observations through 25 April, only one Type 37 seen.
- D. On 19 and 25 April, observers also noted first six, then 11, hitherto unidentified jet medium bombers (like B-47).
- E. Existence of 11 new jet medium bombers would moderately advance present estimates. Existence of nine Type 37s, extremely doubtful, would greatly advance estimates.

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II. Present estimates (SNIE 11-2-54).

A. Jet medium bombers:

1. Series production - in 1954.
2. Fifty operational by mid-1955;
325 by end of 1957.
3. Performance will improve Soviet capabilities against strategic targets on periphery.

B. Jet heavy bombers:

1. Series production - sometime in 1956.
2. Twenty operational in 1957.
3. Eventual introduction will significantly improve Soviet capabilities for attack on US.

III. Soviet program (SNIE 11-2-54) includes:

A. Heavy - turbo-propeller powered:

1. Prototype observed July 1951:

Type 31.

2. Combat radius - 3,000 n.m.
3. Range (one way) - 5,600 n.m.

B. Heavy - jet powered:

1. Observed Moscow July 1953:

Type 37.

2. Combat radius - 2,500 n.m.
3. Range - 4,800 n.m.

C. Medium - jet powered:

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1. [REDACTED]

2. Combat radius - 1,500 n.m.
3. Range - 2,900 n.m.

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